

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AF-10 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NASA-04 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OIC-04 SP-03 PA-04 PRS-01

RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /211 W

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1967

DISTO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, MCAP, IN, PARM

SUBJECT: REACTION AT UN TO INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

1. WE HAVE HEARD MANY COMMENTS IN UN CIRCLES ON THE INDIAN
NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, MOSTLY CONDEMNATORY IN VARYING DEGREES. THERE
IS NO UN BODY CURRENTLY IN SESSION WHERE THIS SUBJECT WOULD
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LOGICALLY COME UP, ALTHOUGH WE MAY HEAR SOMETHING OF IT AT THE

INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ) AD HOC COMMITTEE SESSION IN EARLY JUNE AND THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (WDC) AD HOC COMMITTEE'S SECOND SESSION IN LATE JUNE. LOOKING FARTHER AHEAD, A MOVE BY PAKISTAN IN SOME WAY TO OBTAIN CONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEM BY 29TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS CONCEIVABLE. MOST MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED BLOC AT THE UN HAVE REFRAINED FROM CONDEMNING INDIA SO FAR, TENDING TO KEEP SILENT, DECLARATIONS OF ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTING TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING.

2. OF OUR WESTERN ALLIES, CANADA HAS BEEN THE MOST OUTSPOKEN HERE IN BERATING INDIA, CONSISTENT WITH REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OTTAWA AND GENEVA. BRITISH PERMREP RICHARDS IS REPORTED BY A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF TO BE HANKERING TO COME OUT STRONGLY AGAINST INDIAN ACTION IN SOME WAY. IRANIAN MISOFF OPINED INDIAN MOVE WOULD ENCOURAGE ISRAELI NUCLEAR PRETENSIONS. TURKISH AND JAPANESE MISOFFS SOUGHT US OUT TO REGISTER THEIR DISMAY BUT BOTH INSISTED INDIAN EXPLOSION WOULD NOT DELAY NPT RATIFICATION IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.

3. AS REPORTED BY "NEW YORK TIMES," MAY 20, SYG WALDHEIM THROUGH HIS PRESS SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED HIS "SERIOUS CONCERN" AT INDIAN BLAST IN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED TERMS. DIRECTOR OF UN DISARMAMENT DIVISION BJORNERSTEDT TOLD MISOFF HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WALDHEIM DID NOT MAKE A STRONGER STATEMENT AND DID NOT MENTION NPT. SPOKESMAN IN REPLY TO QUESTION SAID SYG TAKES NO SPECIFIC POSITION ON NON-PROLIFERATION AS SUCH. BJORNERSTEDT THINKS INDIA HAS DEALT A SERIOUS BLOW TO NPT AND UNLESS INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION IS MARSHALLED AGAINST INDIA, SOME OTHER COUNTRIES WILL BE SORELY TEMPTED TO FOLLOW ITS EXAMPLE. HE NOTED THAT "ONE OF THE THREE NPT DEPOSITARIES" HAD NOT EVEN SEEN FIT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE INDIAN EXPLOSION. HE SPECUALTED THAT BOTH US AND SOV INTELLIGENCE MUST HAVE HAD ADVANCE WARNING OF THE EVENT THROUGH SATELLITE SENSING, AND HE SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING THAT SOVS AT BEST DID NOT MAKE A STRONG EFFORT TO CURB INDIA'S PLANS. BJORNERSTEDT THINKS SOME US-SOV QUALITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON STRATEGIC ARMS WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AT THIS TIME TO FURTHER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

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